

The Punta Gorda Herald

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STARTLING FIGURES

On the Timber and Coal Supply of the Country.

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the American Forestry Association, at Washington D. C., January 29th, was memorable. Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson presided. He said that, in the Colonial period, timber was so abundant in this country that to destroy it was deemed a merit. Today, timber planting on a vast scale is necessary. Tree planting is expensive. It is a simple matter to take a spade and plant a little tree, but an army of men with spades would not suffice to plant enough trees for our use. It is necessary that one man shall be able to plant five hundred trees a day. Machinery must be devised for doing this.

Mr. Gifford Pinchot, forester of the department of agriculture, spoke on our natural resources. He said that at the present rate of consumption, the soft coal will be gone in 100 years and the hard coal in 50. Our future manufacturing must depend upon water power; and this, in turn depends upon the forests.

We are squandering our natural heritage like a prodigal son. All other nations have done so. Many now are paying the price. Ours is at last beginning to think of husbanding its resources before too late.

Dr. J. T. Rothrock of the Pennsylvania Forestry commission said that much of the forest land owned by his state is already worth twice what the state paid for it. In some cases the state can sell the timber alone for four times as much as it paid for land and timber together. The moral is that the United States ought not to delay in buying up and establishing the Appalachian national forests. The longer we wait the more we must pay.

By deforestation, we are turning mountain lands into deserts.

Mr. James S. Whipple, forest, fish and game commissioner of New York, stated that his state can reforest at \$6.50 an acre, whereas France must spend, in some cases, \$35 an acre; because it must remake the soil, which floods have washed away. By beginning now, and saving her forests and soils, America can escape this hard necessity.

Mr. Frederick S. Underhill, of Philadelphia, vice-president of the Lumberman's Exchange, said almost every lumber association in the country has taken action looking to forest preservation, and is co-operating with state legislatures to that end.

Prof. George F. Swain of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology stated that, by reason of the reduction in the amount of forest cover on the White Mountain watershed, the water power in the New England streams has become insufficient to run the mills; and 95 per cent of the water power factories have to use steam at certain times of the year or quit running. With proper forest protection, the stream flow would be sufficient all the year round. He also alluded to the loss of soil, from erosion,

Gainesville Sun:—Gov. Broward has officially announced his candidacy for United States Senator for the term beginning March 4th, 1909. Just what effect his candidacy will have upon other candidates for this office, which is the highest within the gift of the people of Florida, remains to be seen. The Sun refrains from comment upon the Governor's candidacy just now.

A Friend to the Newspapers.

Lakeland News:—The St. Petersburg Independent complains that the State candidates are a cheap lot and are inclined to haggle over the cost of such advertising as they may desire. How about Gilchrist? We don't wish to make comparisons, which are sometimes odious, but Gilchrist is one candidate who does not haggle. The matter in this paper accompanying the General's picture was sent with the simple instructions, "Insert as an advertisement until the primary, and send bill." And he will get his advertisement from us—just as cheap as if forty letters had been passed on the subject. If there are any concessions to be given, we would be inclined to make them to the man who does business in this straightforward business-like way. Gilchrist's treatment of the newspapers in this instance is characteristic of the man at all times. He is a big-hearted, generous man, with no smallness or meanness in his make-up.

De Land Record:—His platform, while unique and original, is a good one and will be received favorably by most fair-minded people. If there is one thing that will commend him to the democratic voters of Florida, it is his honesty and independence. In all his public life he has been his own boss. He has never been charged with being the tool of any man, men, faction or corporation. His public life has always been on the side he deemed best for Florida and her people. To his credit to begin with he has the united support of the people of his own section of the State.

after the trees are removed.

Mr. Allen M. Schoen, as an electrical engineer, corroborated these statements; Mr. Schoen's experience however, has been with the mills of the south, depending on the Appalachian streams. There, where no reservoirs exist, national forest protection is even more necessary than in New England.—Tampa Times.

Pensacola Journal:—As the date of Easter is variable, many people are asking on what day it comes this year. The following will inform them: Easter Sunday this year will fall on April 19, which is the first time that it has occurred on that date since 1840. Another peculiar feature of this is that it will not happen again until 1981. This feast is a movable one and always occurs on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21st. The earliest date on which it falls is March 22, while the latest date is April 25. Easter can, therefore, occur on any date from March 22 to April 25. During the nineteenth century this feast fell on March 24, but during the present century it will occur once on that date, which will be in 1940.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Of W. W. Bateman, Candidate for Representative.

Hon. W. W. Bateman, of Wauchula, was born in Gadsden county, Florida, near Quincy, on December 10, 1865, and is now 42 years of age. At the age of 15 moved to Alachua county. Was raised on a farm up to the age of 21. In 1886 he came to DeSoto county, the year DeSoto was divided from Manatee, and has resided here ever since, with the exception of one year spent in Marion county as manager of one of the Smith stores at Boardman.

During his twenty years residence in DeSoto county, he has lived at Arcadin, Punta Gorda and Wauchula, where he has been engaged in mercantile business and truck farming. He moved to Wauchula three years ago from Punta Gorda.

He has always been identified with the best political and commercial interests of DeSoto county. A Democrat all his life and for several years a member of the Democratic Executive Committee of DeSoto county.

He has been a member of the Baptist church for 17 years, and at present is one of the deacons of the Wauchula Baptist church, Superintendent of the Sunday school and chairman of the building committee of said church.

He has been a member of the Woodmen of the World for ten years and for six years held the highest office in the gift of the different local camps where his membership was. He has been a Knight of Pythias for six years and at present is Chancellor Commander of Wauchula Lodge No. 87. He has always been a temperate man. He is married and has several children and is deeply interested in educational work.

Registration Books to Open.

Hon. H. A. Ellis, supervisor of registration for DeSoto County, publishes the following notice:

The registration books will be opened for the registration of voters not already registered, in all precincts, on the first Monday in April. They will be open three days at the court house on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. They will be opened two days of every week at all other precincts in the county. The days to be designated by the district supervisors.

They will be closed on the last Saturday in April.

That very cool, calm, conservative and dignified paper, the Tampa Times, gives utterance to the following:—"The recent turning loose of convicted criminals by the state pardoning board has enraged public sentiment and very properly. As an instance, a Hillsborough man was recently pardoned from serving a life sentence for an atrocious murder. He made another effort to commit a like atrocity and an honest and decent citizen is now in hazard for having killed him in self-defense. The only legitimate case for a pardon is when the innocence of the convicted person has been later ascertained."

If fish will destroy wiggletails in cisterns, there should be none of the mosquito larvae ever found in Florida, as there are plenty of fish to be had almost free of cost. Tampa and Pensacola are demonstrating the efficacy of this new discovery, and also that it is superior to placing kerosene oil in water to rid it of noxious insects.—Jacksonville Metropolis.

High School Notes.

The Pierian Literary Society has discontinued its meetings on account of the commencement practice.

The attendance for the past month was very good, the students of Miss Anderson's room taking the lead.

We very much regret losing some of our best students, some of whom have moved away. Some few students have dropped out of every department of the school; however, they have been replaced in most cases by new ones.

We wish to urge all the students to take advantage of this ideal weather in their school work. It is possible to do much more in four weeks now than in six weeks before. The pleasantness of a Punta Gorda spring is unsurpassed, and nothing contributes more to effective study than that.

The following are those who won high places on the Honor Roll for the past month:

Tenth Grade:—Gordon Liberty, Undine Jordan, May Straughan.

Ninth Grade:—Dot Sewell, Vie Straughan, Claire Sheffield, Geo. Dewey, Jim Cooper.

Eighth Grade:—May Huffman, Florence Hagan, Bettie Knight, Vera Shaw, Maive McCann, Claude Stephens, Charlie Griggs, Moody Stephens, Billy Knight, Charlie Curry.

Seventh Grade:—Rubie P. Gertrude Bass, Pearl Johnson, Coe Allen, Maudie Wilkins, Carl Anderson.

Sixth Grade:—Permelia Straughan, Frank Concannon.

Fifth Grade:—Pearl McGehee, Myrtle Wilkins.

Fourth Grade:—Beniah Gaskell, Wallace Gaskell, Edward McCann.

Third Grade:—Ethel Addison, Pearl Singletary, Frank Rose, Theodore Midgett.

First Grade:—Myrtle Washington, Mary Fine, Ula McGehee, Paul Bryant, William Riddick, Charlie Parker.

De Funiak Breeze:—Of the present state house officials no one has ever suggested to oppose either Mr. Knott, Mr. McClintock, Mr. Crawford or Capt. Rose and no higher tribute could be paid to the efficiency of these men. The people are evidently well satisfied with their service.

The Starke Telegraph, in an editorial leader, ably argues that, as General Gilchrist is a real estate expert, if he should be chosen governor, the state would profit greatly from his knowledge and experience in disposing of the public lands. The Telegraph concludes its editorial with these words: "Mr. Gilchrist has made a comfortable fortune out of the land business. He knows it from top to bottom and if anybody can make the state rich through its land department, it looks to us like he is the man to turn the trick."

BARWICK'S POSITION.

Extracts From His Speech in Bradentown.

Bradentown Herald:—Colonel Barwick, in his speech on the 24th of March, spoke partly from manuscript, partly from notes and partly from suggestions of the moment. We were permitted to look over the manuscript and notes, from which we extract the subjoined thoughts and which the Herald thinks should be emphasized:

"Our short sixty-day legislative sessions should be devoted exclusively (save for local and perhaps unusual and extraordinary matters), to consideration of matters upon which the people have judgment—that matters affecting the State at large or any considerable part of it should be thrashed out before the people interested, by the advocates of such matters, before being introduced before the legislative body. That as a member of such legislative body he should promptly refuse consideration of such matters, advising their champion to first take them up with the people, and by means of mass meetings and otherwise to get them at issue before the people in succeeding campaigns. That if such proposed matters for legislation were good and all right, the people could be made readily to see it, and if bad, it becomes doubly important that the people should first pass upon them, to the end of avoiding blocking the legislature with consideration of matters they (the people) did not favor—taking up time that should be devoted to consideration of matters which the legislature had been elected to dispose of. And that we should adopt such practices with respect to this proposition as will encourage the people in shouldering such responsibilities—that the only way to have a people-rule government is to have them rule, and to that end we should return to the customs of our fathers touching this proposition, the only relic of which yet remaining in our practices is that of referring road petitions, by boards of county commissioners, to those interested."

That since he was a boy this liquor question had been up for adjustment by and through means of the law; that law after law had been passed propping or supporting preceding laws; that both cities and States that had voted dry are now wet again; that each dry State has a different kind of prohibition and none are satisfying; that all except the aim is yet chaos, that settlement upon a generally approved plan and means of regulating and restricting liquors seems no nearer practical solution today than when the agitation began. And that the effort to encourage people to be patient and wait and hope, while wild experiment after wilder experiment is being pushed, citing, as encouragement, that even the law against murder, thieving, etc., is not perfectly enforced. But such arguments don't go down—there is no analogy there—the secular law against murder, thieving, etc., sprang not from sentiment, but from the very highest and universally accepted

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